

What is claimed is:

1. A system providing information about an endoscope, comprising:

5 a history information obtaining unit obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

an estimating unit making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information; and

10 a displaying unit displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein
15 the degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope, is a degree at which maintenance is recommended to be performed for the endoscope.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein
20 the information about the use history indicates at least either of a use time and a number of use times of the endoscope.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein
25 the information about the use history is stored

in a scope storing unit comprised by the endoscope.

5. The system according to claim 4, wherein:
the scope storing unit further stores scope
5 identification information for identifying the
endoscope; and

the system further comprises a use history storing
unit storing information about a use history of each
of a plurality of endoscopes in association with the
10 scope identification information.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein
said displaying unit displays the ratio of the
result of the estimation as a figure.
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7. The system according to claim 1, wherein
said displaying unit individually displays the
ratio of the result of the estimation of a plurality
of endoscopes for each of the plurality of endoscopes.
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8. The system according to claim 1, wherein
said displaying unit lists and displays the ratio
of the result of the estimation of each of a plurality
of endoscopes.
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9. An endoscope, comprising
a storing unit storing information about a use
history of the endoscope itself, wherein

the information stored in said storing unit is
5 transmitted to a system making an estimation of a secular
change in the endoscope from its use start until a
present time based on the information, and displaying
a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of
the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

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10. A method providing information about an
endoscope, comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an
endoscope;

15 making an estimation of a secular change in the
endoscope from its use start until a present time based
on the obtained information; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation
to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for
20 the endoscope.

11. A computer-readable storage medium on which
is recorded a program, by being executed by a computer,
for causing the computer to execute a process for
25 providing information about an endoscope, the process

comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

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12. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a program, by being executed by a computer, for causing the computer to execute a process for providing information about an endoscope, the process comprising:

obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information; and

displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.

25 13. A system providing information about an

endoscope, comprising:

history information obtaining means for obtaining information about a use history of an endoscope;

5 estimating means for making an estimation of a secular change in the endoscope from its use start until a present time based on the obtained information; and

displaying means for displaying a ratio of a result of the estimation to a degree of the secular change, which is preset for the endoscope.